

**FAX COVER SHEET***Microsoft Settlement*

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Attention	Date
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3**COMMENTS**

December 4, 2001

*As a "Consumer" in the United States vs. Microsoft action, I feel compelled to comment on the proposed settlement, an opportunity provided by the Tunney Act.*

*I am a Consumer because my husband and I purchased a Hewlett-Packard computer with Windows 95 software, a monitor, printer, etc. in 1997. We did not feel that we paid too much at that time, nor have we felt that we were overcharged since. In fact, we have been very happy with Windows and all of our Microsoft products. In fact, we are now considering upgrading with XP.*

*However, we feel that we have been severely damaged, not by Microsoft, but by the Justice Department's suit against Microsoft in general and by Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson's very clearly biased rulings in particular. You see, we are retired. We are both in our 70s and are both very active, both mentally and physically, for which we are very grateful. We have raised a large family and have worked hard all of our lives, looking forward to the "Golden Years" of retirement. Well, the Justice Department (under Janet Reno) and Judge Jackson managed to tarnish these years for us in a big way. You guessed it - our IRAs and retirement funds containing our "nest egg" were heavily weighted with tech stocks, especially Microsoft. Joel Klein and Judge Jackson managed to destroy our financial security that was supposedly sufficient to see us through another 15 - 20 years, God willing, without "damage to consumers" by Microsoft ever having been proven as nearly as we or any of our tech-savvy acquaintances can find. What kind of JUSTICE is that? The Appeals Court apparently upheld Judge Jackson's finding that Microsoft is a monopoly. But it is our understanding that it is not illegal to be a monopoly.*

*We are now admittedly in a recession and are also a nation at war. The lives of all Americans have changed in the last few months. The settlement proposed now by the Justice Department (under Attorney General Ashcroft) appears to be a very adequate punishment for whatever Microsoft's misdeeds have been. Isn't it now time to GET OVER IT and GET IT OVER WITH and move ahead with matters of far greater importance to the country at this time? Those States still dragging their heels and withholding approval appear only to be trying to hang onto a "Cash Cow" and, possibly, make some more trial lawyers even richer, at our expense. We owned and operated our small business for over 25 years and we had to Compete to make good. We did not, and could not, rely on the government to make us successful. In fact, the government made it more difficult for us to compete with affirmative action laws in effect at that time. Our biggest competitor's owner was classified as a Minority and, as such, was entitled to contracts that we could not even bid on or be awarded. The fact that he was retired from the NFL and was also benefitting from a very sizeable NFL pension was irrelevant. But we did manage to compete by providing good work and good service. Microsoft's competitors should be encouraged to succeed in that same way. Let's hear it for "INNOVATION over LITIGATION", accept the proposed settlement, and let all of us get on with our lives and, hopefully, put a little life back into the retirement funds of ordinary hard-working citizens. And for all the computer users out there, you'll find that the options and choices are already endless--- no need to struggle through further class action suits to be rewarded in the end by a payoff of an estimated \$5.00 per person.*

Respectfully Submitted,

*Virginia Riva*

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